
EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT: THE GIFT OF CONFIRMATION

GLOSSARY

Absolution	The word 'absolution' comes from a Latin word meaning 'set free from'. In God's name, the priest declares that the person who has come to Confession is set free from sin and has received God's forgiveness.
Apostles	The Apostles were the disciples specially chosen and trained by Jesus and entrusted with a special mission by Him: they were sent out to proclaim the Good News about Jesus. Our bishops are the successors of the first apostles.
Apostolic	'Apostolic' means 'coming from the apostles'. The Church is called 'apostolic' because she follows and hands on the teachings of the apostles about Jesus.
Bounty	'Bounty' is another word for generosity. In our Grace before Meals we thank God for His bounty, for the generosity of His gifts to us.
Catholic	'Catholic' means 'universal'. It is the word we use to describe the one, whole, universal Church.
Celibate	A celibate is someone who does not marry but gives their whole life to God and the service of others.
Chastity	'Chastity' means being pure and faithful to God and in our relationships with others; it's about not being a slave to emotions and desires. Chastity is a fruit of the Holy Spirit.
Chrism	'Chrism' is an ointment made out of olive oil and balsam (a fragrant resin), blessed by the Bishop during Holy Week and used for anointing at Confirmation.
Consubstantial	Consubstantial means 'of the same substance'. In our Creed it means that Jesus, God the Son, is of the same divinity as God the Father.

Contrition	'Contrition' is sorrow for our sins. During Confession we make an 'act' of Contrition by saying a prayer of sorrow for our sins.
Corinth	Corinth is an ancient city in Greece. As an important trading site in St Paul's time, it was a good place from which to spread the good news about Jesus.
Counsel	'Counsel' means advice or guidance. Counsel is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit: it refers to the guidance we receive from God.
Creed	A creed is a summary of the beliefs of a people. The Creed of the Catholic Church spells out for us the main beliefs of our Catholic faith.
Decade	A 'decade' is a group or a set of 10. In the Rosary prayer, the word 'decade' refers to one of the 5 rows of 10 beads, on each of which we pray a <i>Hail Mary</i> .
Dominicans	The Dominicans are a religious order of brothers, sisters and priests founded by St Dominic in the thirteenth century to preach the Catholic faith in their words and in their lives. The Dominicans are also called the 'Order of Preachers'.
Eucharist	The word 'Eucharist' comes from a Greek word meaning 'thanksgiving'. The word 'Eucharist' refers in part to the special prayers of thanksgiving in Holy Mass but is a term also used to describe the whole of the Mass.
Examination of Conscience	An Examination of Conscience is the time we take to think about and look back over (or examine) our lives to see where we have sinned. We do this before we make our Confession. It is also good to make a brief Examination of Conscience when we say our prayers at the end of each day.
Fear-of-the-Lord	'Fear-of-the-Lord' is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit: it refers to the overwhelming awe we feel when we encounter God.

Fortitude	'Fortitude' means strength or courage. Fortitude is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit: it refers to the courage we have which God inspires in us.
Galatia	Galatia was a province of the ancient Roman Empire (in central present-day Turkey). St Paul witnessed to Christ in the early Christian communities in the towns and cities of this province.
Gospel	The word 'gospel' means 'good news'. The gospels tell the 'good news' of Jesus Christ. There are four gospels written by St Matthew, St Mark, St Luke and St John.
Grace	'Grace' is the word we give to the free, undeserved outpouring of the caring help of God. Through grace we are touched by the gift of God's love and God invites us to share in the joy of His life.
'Greeks'	When St Paul speaks of 'Greeks' to the people of Corinth, he isn't just referring to people who live in Greece but means all those people who are not Jews. In St Paul's time most people spoke Greek and calling people 'Greeks' was a short-hand way of saying 'everybody else' who is not Jewish. Sometimes the word 'Greek' is replaced by the word 'Gentile' which means a non-Jewish person.
Hermit	The word 'hermit' means a 'desert-dweller' and refers to someone who lives a simple life seeking solitude, where they can dedicate their time to prayer and becoming day by day more like Christ.
Incarnate	'Incarnate' means 'becoming flesh'. God the Son became flesh and blood. He who is the Son of God became human (like you and me) so we could become like Him.
Jesse	Jesse was the father of King David and from them the kings of Israel were descended. Jesus is sometimes called 'the Son of David'.

Litany	The word 'litany' comes from a Greek word meaning 'entreaty' or 'request' and usually refers to a long list of prayers with a repeated response. In the Church a litany is made up of a long list of the titles of the Lord Jesus or of Our Lady, or of a list of the names of saints, asking for their prayers.
Liturgy	The word 'liturgy' comes from a Greek word meaning 'public work' or 'public service'. Liturgy is another word for worship, the public service we offer to God, e.g. in Holy Mass and the celebration of other sacraments, in devotions, processions and the Liturgy of the Hours (the prayers offered at regular times of the day).
Martyr	A martyr is someone who gives their life in witness to Christ.
Mission	'Mission' means 'being sent'. The mission of Jesus was to bring the good news of God's love. Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus and His love to all people.
Modesty	'Modesty' means being humble, being unpretentious in appearance and behaviour. Modesty is a fruit of the Holy Spirit.
Penance	A penance is something which the priest who hears our Confession asks us to do to repair the harm of our sin. Our penance may be a loving prayer to God, or an act of service or of kindness to someone that we have hurt.
Pentecost	Pentecost is the Greek word for 50th and is the name we give to the Feast we now celebrate 50 days after Easter to commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Our Lady and the Apostles. In the Bible, in the Acts of the Apostles, 'Pentecost' refers to the Jewish Festival of Weeks celebrated 50 days after the Passover, the festival which remembered the time when the Jewish people were set free from slavery.
Piety	'Piety' means reverence or respect. Piety is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit: it refers to the respect we have for God.

Prophets	'Prophets' are men and women in the Old Testament who urged people to return to God, and who looked forward to the coming of salvation.
Rosary	'Rosary' is the name given to the prayer beads which we use in the Catholic Church. Rosary comes from a word meaning 'rose' because that flower is a symbol of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
Sabbath	'Sabbath' is the name given to the seventh day of the week, a day of rest and celebration. For the Jewish people the Sabbath day is from sunset on Friday until sunset on Saturday.
Sacrament	A sacrament is a holy and visible sign in words and actions of God's presence with us. The sacraments were first introduced to us by Jesus Himself and there are seven of them, including Baptism and Confirmation. Do you know the names of the other five sacraments?
Scroll	At the time of Jesus, a scroll was a long piece of parchment (a type of material which is used like paper); the Jewish scriptures (their sacred writings) are written on scrolls.
Slaves	In St Paul's time, Corinth (in present day Greece) was part of the Roman Empire. In the Roman world some people were slaves (the property of somebody else). Those who were not slaves were described as 'free'.
Sponsor	<p>A sponsor is someone who journeys with a candidate for Confirmation, who presents the candidate on the day of Confirmation and who continues to support them in their life of faith in the Church. A Confirmation Sponsor prays for the candidate and provides them with an example of how to live the Catholic faith. A sponsor must be a Catholic; they should be over 16 years old and practise their faith.</p> <p>Parents cannot act as the Sponsor for their own child; a good choice for a Confirmation Sponsor would be one of the candidate's Catholic godparents or someone the candidate knows in their local parish community.</p>

Synagogue	A synagogue is a place where the Jewish people gather to worship God.
Tabernacle	The word 'tabernacle' means a 'dwelling place'. In the Old Testament the tabernacle was the tent-like construction in which God was present among His people. In Catholic churches, the Tabernacle is a special piece of church furnishing into which the Body of Christ is placed so that Christ dwells in our midst.
Tax collectors	In Jesus' time, the Jewish people considered tax collectors as sinful because they worked for the Romans who then occupied and ruled their country. Some of the tax collectors were also known to be dishonest and charge too much tax.
Trinity	Our word 'trinity' comes from a word which means 'three'. We speak of God as the Holy Trinity, one God in three persons in relationship (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), a relationship of life and love in which we are invited to share.
YOUCAT	YOUCAT is the Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church. You will hear more about YOUCAT when you are in secondary school. A CATECHISM is a summary of the beliefs of the Catholic Church.